

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHARLTON KINGS

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

W. L. BOOY

Certified Sanitary Inspector.  
Certified Meat & Other Foods Inspector.  
Associate of the Institute of Housing.



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CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

F O R   T H E   Y E A R   1 9 5 0

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hares, Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1950.

According to the Registrar General's estimate for 1950 the population increased by 101 to 6003, but the 1951 Census figures have now been published and show that the Census population is 5,836.

The Birth Rate, 13.7 per 1,000, is the same as last year's, and is again lower than the national rate, 15.8, but before comparisons are made due allowance should be made for the age distribution of the local population. Making this adjustment by means of the comparability factor for the District supplied by the Registrar-General, the corrected birth rate is 14.8

There were 94 deaths as compared with 81 last year; giving a death rate for the District of 15.6 as against 11.6 for the country as a whole. Here again the local figure is high because of the high proportion of elderly people in the District. For this reason the comparability factor for the District is 0.77 and the corrected Death Rate 12.0.

• Only two infants died during the first year of life, the infantile mortality rate being 24 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 62 last year and a current rate of 29.8 for the country as a whole. The decline in the infantile mortality is very satisfactory, but although the deaths of infants were few, there were six still births. The causes of still birth are often the causes of death of the infant in the neonatal period. There two features should, therefore, be considered in relation to one another.

There was one case of poliomyelitis, but otherwise the District was free from dangerous infectious disease.

The shortage of houses continues to be the most serious problem in the District, applications for houses amounting to 345.

By the end of 1950, 80 post-war houses had been completed, 12 were under construction, and tenders had been accepted for 20 more houses.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into operation on 31st March, 1950. This Act imposes on the District Council a general obligation to ensure that, so far as is practicable, the District is kept free from rats and mice.

At the time when the Act came into force the Council had an arrangement with the Cheltenham Corporation to carry out treatment on their behalf. It became evident that this arrangement did not fulfil the new obligations of the Council, particularly as regards inspection. A new scheme was formulated whereby the Council discharged their duties directly through officers of the Council.

Mr. Middleton, after serving the Council and District faithfully for 43 years, retired from his position as part-time Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Booy was appointed

and took up his duties on 1st March, 1950. Mr. Booy carries out the duties of Sanitary Inspector together with those of Housing Manager. This combination makes the employment of a full-time officer possible. No matter how efficient a part-time officer may be, there is a great advantage in having someone who is able to devote the whole of his energies to the service of the Council.

I am again glad to express my thanks and appreciation to the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and to my colleagues for their willing co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1951.



CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1950.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,399
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year Home Population	6,003
Census, 1951	5,836
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1950)	1,810
Rateable Value, March, 1951	£42,258
Sum represented by a penny rate	£169.725

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS

				<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	80	38	42
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	3	-
Total	...	...	...	83	41	42
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	...	...	...	...	1.08
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	14.8

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	...	3	3	-
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	-
Total	...	...	...	4	4	-
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	46.

DEATHS

				94	41	53
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...	...	15.6
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	0.77
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	12.0

No. 30 DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (Live &amp; Still) Births</u>
Nil.	Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE  
(Infantile Death Rate)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	2	-	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Total	2	-	2	
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	24.1

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE  
(Neonatal Mortality)

Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Total	1	-	1	
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	12.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	6
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	5
Totals carried forward	17	19



	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Totals brought forward	17	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	5
20. Other heart disease	17	12
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	-	1
24. Bronchitis	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	1	-
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total ... ..	<u>41</u>	<u>53</u>
Total both male and female ...	94.	

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES  
FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Birth Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	16.1	15.4	16.7	13.7	13.7
Death Rate					
(per 1,000 population)	13.3	16.0	13.0	13.4	15.6
Infantile Mortality Rate					
(per 1,000 live births)	52.0	54.0	50.0	62.0	24.1
(Deaths of Infants under one year)					
Neonatal Mortality					
(per 1,000 live births)					12.0
(Deaths of Infants under four weeks)					

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY  
RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW

	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>	<u>126 C.Bs. and Great Towns</u>	<u>County of Glos.</u>	<u>Charlton Kings U.D.C.</u>
Live Births	15.8	17.6	16.15	13.7
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.37	0.45		0.6
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)			21.95	46.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.6	12.3	11.46	15.6
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under one year) (Per 1,000 Live Births)	29.8	33.8	28.31	24.1
Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks) (Per 1,000 Live Births)				12.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

General Statistics

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year:

	<u>Under 1 yr.</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>15 - 25</u>		<u>25 and upwards</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	4	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	6	4
Measles	-	1	18	12	16	26	-	-	1	-	35	39
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases were notified during the year:

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	<u>0 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Tuberculosis Notifications, 1950			
Pulmonary	-	1	6
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-

### Tuberculosis Deaths, 1950

Pulmonary	-	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1950, was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
17	8	25	4	2	6	31.

Six fresh notifications were not an exceptional number for the district.

## FOOD POISONING

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

## CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

The registration of food premises in general is not compulsory, but a list of all such businesses has been compiled and systematic inspections started. At these visits particular attention is paid to the cleanliness of the premises and personnel and to the arrangements for preparation and handling of food. Health educational literature, appropriate to the trade, is given to the proprietor and his assistants.

A letter from the Clerk to the Council was sent to each trader drawing attention to the Clean Food Campaign asking for the co-operation of all concerned.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Although responsibility for diphtheria immunisation now lies with the County Council, the District Council is vitally interested in the success of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign because of ~~its~~ duty in preventing the spread of infectious disease.

The prevalence of poliomyelitis in the summer months had an adverse effect on immunisations. From July to mid-October none were carried out.

However, in spite of this handicap fifty children were immunised as against fifty-six in the previous year; the proportion of protected children being raised from 82% to 83%. In addition 69 children received a maintenance dose.

### Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to 31st December, 1950:

Age at 31/12/50	<u>Under</u> <u>1 yr.</u>	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	<u>Total</u> <u>under</u>
e.g. born in year	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>41-45</u>	<u>36-40</u>	<u>12</u>
Number immunised	( -	52	59	87	68 )	( 380	395 )	1,041
Estimated mid-year population, 1950.			437				819	1,256

### Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in Relation to Immunisation.

There were no cases and no deaths from diphtheria.

## GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

### Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (Phone Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a valuable hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service when the use of public transport is not possible. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham, giving 48 hours notice of the requirement.



## Nursing in the Home.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. Cheltenham 55746.

### Addresses of District Nurses

Nurse M. Glifford, "Bermarlee", Little Herberts Road, Charlton Kings. Telephone Cheltenham 52523.

Nurse L. Bick ) 11 Cowlsmead, Shurdington  
Nurse Brockway ) Telephone Shurdington 315.

## Child Welfare Centre.

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Baptist Church Hall, Church Street, every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

## Home Help Service.

This Service, which is organised by the County Council, has proved to be of great value to the community. The Home Help takes over the running of the home when the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. Cheltenham 55746.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

### Section 47 - Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Although no application was made to the Court under this Section, it has been necessary to visit a number of old people from time to time. In one case, the person concerned accepted an offer of residential accommodation.

The Home Help Service is of great assistance to many lonely old people; a little timely help and the provision of a meal is often sufficient to enable them to carry on in their own homes.

The plight of these old persons is usually brought to notice by relatives, but some method of visiting needs to be devised so that deterioration can be anticipated.



## WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District Council is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality. One consumer sample was taken on behalf of the U.D.C., and found to be satisfactory. Three samples were taken from private supplies and appropriate action taken.

14 houses were connected to the public water mains; comprising 12 new houses and 2 existing houses.

The following tables gives the position with regard to a public piped supply:-

		(a) <u>Direct into</u> <u>house.</u>	(b) <u>By Stand-</u> <u>pipe.</u>
<u>Total</u>			
1,810	No. of Houses) supplied (	1,599	7.
6,003	No. of popu- ) by public(	5,306	24.
	lation ) mains (		

## SECTION 20, HOUSING ACT, 1949

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings and for the improvement of existing dwellings.

No application for grant under this Section was received during the year, although a number of houses in the area might well qualify for such grant.

## SECTION 2, HOUSING ACT, 1949

No application was made to the Council under this section for action to be taken to quash a demolition order.

# REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.L. BOOY

## Housing

Dwellinghouses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	76
Total number of housing visits	..	...	...	...	...	146
Number of houses found in all respects unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of notices served under Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspection of accommodation occupied by housing applicants	...	...	...	...	...	75
Inspections re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous housing visits	...	...	...	...	...	30

## Council Houses.

By the end of the year the number of desperate cases for rehousing had considerably decreased. The overall need to continue the housing programme energetically still remains.

The difficulty of carrying out any but token repairs to the Council's houses during and immediately after the war had given rise to large arrears of housing repairs.

In order to assess the extent of this problem an inspection of all the pre-war Council houses was made during the summer months. Detailed schedules were prepared and submitted to the Council, who, as a result, decided to institute for a trial period a direct-labour scheme for housing repairs. This scheme was set up in October, and by the end of the year was proving satisfactory.

## Housing Allocation

The points system of allocation instituted in 1947 continued to prove satisfactory. The circumstances of all applicants are reviewed by the Housing Allocation Committee. To assist the Committee an investigation and report is made in each instance; necessitating 75 inspections.

## Food Premises

There are no food-preparing factories in the area. A start was made on the inspection of the shops, hotels and catering establishments in the area, to ensure compliance with the provisions of Sections 13 & 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year the following registrations of premises were made under Section 14; of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938:

Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	9.
Preparation or manufacture of					
sausages and preserved foods	...	...	...	...	2.

#### Summary of Visits and Inspections:

Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	9.
Visits to other food premises	...	...	...	...	43.
Visits re Meat & Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	10.
Visits re sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	24.

#### Food Condemned.

	cwt.	qr.	lb.	
Bacon	1	1	5½	(Returned to whole-saler)
Carcase Meat	-	2	4	(Returned to Abattoir)
Shell eggs	-	2	2	)
Tinned Vegetables	-	-	22	)
Tinned Milk	-	-	4½	)
Tinned Meat	-	-	3	)
Tinned Fruit	-	-	5	)
Pickles, etc.	-	-	17	)
				Taken and destroyed.

#### Rodent Control

The arrangements made some years ago with the Cheltenham Corporation for Rodent Control continued. The Corporation dealt with all complaints passed to them, and also treated periodically the Council's refuse tip, sewers, and other property.

During the year 43 visits and inspections were carried out, in co-operation with the Corporation Pests Officer.

#### Infectious Disease.

Seven enquiries were made during the year and two disinfections carried out.

#### Verminous Premises.

Thirteen visits were made, and 7 disinfestations carried out.

#### Drainage and Other Works in Progress.

During the year 212 visits were made to supervise drainage and other works in progress. Builders in the area were reminded of the obligation to notify the local authority concerning proposed drainage work.

### Water Supply.

A number of properties are still without a piped water supply.

The recoverable limit of £20 per property imposed by Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 prevents the Council taking statutory action in certain cases, where houses are situated at a distance from the mains. However, in cases where the existing supply proved unwholesome the Council authorised the service of statutory notices, requiring owners to connect their properties to the mains.

25 visits were made during the year, and  
4 samples taken for analysis.

### Caravans.

A number of enquiries were received during the year from persons wishing to station caravans in the area. Whilst a few individual caravans are licensed, there is no licensed site in the area. The provision of a properly operated site in the area might help considerably in solving of the housing problems of those evicted from furnished rooms, etc.

### Factories Act, 1937

24 factories are on the Council's register. 22 factory inspections were made.

### General Sanitation.

No. of visits re refuse collection	...	...	66.
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	...	...	36.

